

CLAIMS:

1. A mobile medical apparatus comprising a moving mechanism for moving the apparatus across a surface on which the apparatus can stand and a securing mechanism for securing the apparatus in a position on the surface, and an actuator operated mechanism for selective engagement of the moving mechanism or the securing mechanism, an actuator of the actuator operated mechanism being movable in a first downwards motion from an unlocked position, at which one of the moving mechanism or the securing mechanism is engaged, to a locked position, at which the other of the table moving mechanism or the table securing mechanism is engaged, and then further downwardly in a second downwards motion to unlock the actuator mechanism and permit the actuator to return to the unlocked position.
2. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the actuator is rotatable about a single axis.
3. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the single axis extends transversely across an end of a base of the apparatus.
4. A mobile medical apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the actuator operated mechanism includes a locking device for locking the actuator in the locked position and a movement resisting mechanism for permitting further downward movement of the actuator in the second downwards motion against a resistance.
5. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the locking device includes a catch pawl which is engageable in a notch in a catch member as a result of relative rotation therebetween upon depression of the actuator in the first downwards motion, and a biasing device for moving the catch pawl out of engagement with the notch as a result of further relative rotation therebetween upon further depression of the actuator in the second downwards motion.

6. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the catch member is mounted on a catch member shaft which is rotated on movement of the actuator.

7. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the actuator is mounted on an actuator shaft, and the actuator shaft and the catch member shaft are coupled together by helical gears having orthogonal axes.

8. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the actuator operated mechanism further includes a horizontal member from which the moving mechanism or the securing mechanism depends downwardly, at least one guide member for guiding vertical movement of the horizontal member between upper and lower positions and a pressure member for selectively applying a downwardly directed force to the horizontal member to move the respective moving mechanism or the securing mechanism to a lower active position.

9. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the pressure member comprises a bearing member eccentrically mounted on the catch member shaft, the bearing member having a bearing surface acting on the upper surface of the horizontal member.

10. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the bearing member comprises a roller bearing and the horizontal member is a plate.

11. A mobile medical apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 10 wherein the at least one guide member comprises a plurality of upwardly directed guide pins extending through respective holes in the plate.

12. A mobile medical apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein the movement resisting mechanism comprises at least one spring device between the horizontal member and a chassis of the apparatus for resisting further downward movement of the horizontal member from the locked position of the actuator.

13. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 12 wherein the at least one spring device is a disc spring located around the respective guide member.

14. A mobile medical apparatus according to any one of claims 8 to 11 wherein the movement resisting mechanism comprises a pair of stop members downwardly depending from the horizontal member and adapted to bear against a chassis of the apparatus for resisting further downward movement of the horizontal member from the locked position of the actuator, and the horizontal member is adapted to flex downwardly under additional downward force from the pressure member.

15. A mobile medical apparatus according to any foregoing claim wherein the actuator operated mechanism further includes a damping device for damping the movement of the apparatus between the locked and unlocked positions of the actuator.

16. A mobile medical apparatus according to any foregoing claim wherein the actuator is a pedal.

17. A mobile medical apparatus according to any foregoing claim which is a surgical table, the surgical table further comprising a base for standing on a floor, a column of adjustable height mounted on the base and a tabletop providing a longitudinal patient support surface, the base having first and second longitudinally opposed ends, at least one end of the base being provided with the moving mechanism for moving the table across a floor and the securing mechanism for securing the table in a position on the floor.

18. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 17 comprising a plurality of longitudinally oriented fixed wheels at the first end and a plurality of first castors at the second end for permitting the table to be moved over a floor, a plurality of second castors at the first end, a first pedal operated mechanism for moving the second castors between an upper inactive position and a lower active position, in

the lower position the second castors being lower than the fixed wheels whereby the fixed wheels are retracted from the floor, a plurality of fixed feet at the second end and a second pedal operated mechanism for moving the first castors between an upper inactive position and a lower active position, in the lower position the first castors being lower than the fixed feet whereby the fixed feet are retracted from the floor.

19. A mobile medical apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the actuators are pedals and the two pedal operated mechanisms have the same structure and pedals for operating the two pedal operated mechanisms are disposed at opposed longitudinally separated ends of the base.

20. A mobile medical apparatus substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

21. A surgical table comprising a base for standing on a floor, a column of adjustable height mounted on the base and a tabletop providing a longitudinal patient support surface, the base having first and second longitudinally opposed ends, at least one end of the base being provided with a table moving mechanism for moving the table across a floor and a table securing mechanism for securing the table in a position on the floor, and a pedal operated mechanism for selective engagement of the table moving mechanism or the table securing mechanism with the floor, a pedal of the pedal operated mechanism being rotatable about a single axis.

22. A surgical table according to claim 21 wherein the pedal is movable in a first downwards motion from an unlocked position, at which one of the table moving mechanism or the table securing mechanism is engaged, to a locked position, at which the other of the table moving mechanism or the table securing mechanism is engaged, and then further downwardly in a second downwards motion to unlock the pedal mechanism and permit the pedal to return to the unlocked position.

23. A surgical table according to claim 22 wherein the pedal operated mechanism includes a locking device for locking the pedal in the locked position and a movement resisting mechanism for permitting further downward movement of the pedal in the second downwards motion against a resistance.

24. A surgical table according to claim 23 wherein the locking device includes a catch pawl which is engageable in a notch in a catch member as a result of relative rotation therebetween upon depression of the pedal in the first downwards motion, and a biasing device for moving the catch pawl out of engagement with the notch as a result of further relative rotation therebetween upon further depression of the pedal in the second downwards motion.

25. A surgical table according to claim 24 wherein the catch member is mounted on a catch member shaft which is rotated on movement of the pedal.

26. A surgical table according to claim 25 wherein the pedal is mounted on a pedal shaft, and the pedal shaft and the catch member shaft are coupled together by helical gears having orthogonal axes.

27. A surgical table according to claim 26 wherein the pedal operated mechanism further includes a horizontal member from which the table moving mechanism or the table securing mechanism depends downwardly, at least one guide member for guiding vertical movement of the horizontal member between upper and lower positions and a pressure member for selectively applying a downwardly directed force to the horizontal member to move the respective table moving mechanism or the table securing mechanism to a lower active position.

28. A surgical table according to claim 27 wherein the pressure member comprises a bearing member eccentrically mounted on the catch member shaft, the bearing member having a bearing surface acting on the upper surface of the horizontal member.

29. A surgical table according to claim 28 wherein the bearing member comprises a roller bearing and the horizontal member is a plate.

30. A surgical table according to any one of claims 27 to 29 wherein the at least one guide member comprises a plurality of upwardly directed guide pins extending through respective holes in the plate.

31. A surgical table according to any one of claims 27 to 30 wherein the movement resisting mechanism comprises at least one spring device between the horizontal member and a chassis of the table for resisting further downward movement of the horizontal member from the locked position of the pedal.

32. A surgical table according to claim 31 wherein the at least one spring device is a disc spring located around the respective guide member.

33. A surgical table according to any one of claims 27 to 30 wherein the movement resisting mechanism comprises a pair of stop members downwardly depending from the horizontal member and adapted to bear against a chassis of the table for resisting further downward movement of the horizontal member from the locked position of the pedal, and the horizontal member is adapted to flex downwardly under additional downward force from the pressure member.

34. A surgical table according to any one of claims 21 to 33 wherein the pedal operated mechanism further includes a damping device for damping the movement of the table base between the locked and unlocked positions of the pedal.

35. A surgical table according to any one of claims 21 to 34 wherein the single axis extends transversely across one end of the base.

36. A surgical table according to any one of claims 21 to 35 comprising a plurality of longitudinally oriented fixed wheels at the first end and a plurality of first castors, of the table moving mechanism, at the second end for permitting the table to be moved over a floor, a plurality of second castors at the first end, a first pedal operated mechanism for moving the second castors between an upper retracted position and a lower active position, in the lower position the second castors being lower than the fixed wheels whereby the fixed wheels are retracted from the floor, a plurality of fixed feet, of the table securing mechanism, at the second end and a second pedal operated mechanism for moving the first castors between an upper retracted position and a lower active position, in the lower position the first castors being lower than the fixed feet whereby the fixed feet are retracted from the floor.

37. A surgical table according to claim 36 wherein the two pedal operated mechanisms have the same structure and pedals for operating the two pedal operated mechanisms are disposed at opposed longitudinally separated ends of the base.